

HISTORY
OF
FREEMASONRY IN MARYLAND,

OF
All the Rites introduced into Maryland,
FROM THE EARLIEST TIME TO THE PRESENT:

EMBRACING
THE COMPLETE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRAND
LODGE FROM ITS FIRST FORMATION
IN THE YEAR 1783.

TOGETHER
WITH BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES AND PORTRAITS
OF PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE FRATERNITY.

BY
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PAST MASTER OF CONCORDIA LODGE, No. 13. PAST DEPUTY GRAND HIGH PRIEST.
PAST GRAND COMMANDER KNIGHTS TEMPLAR. PAST GRAND CAPTAIN
GENERAL GRAND ENCAMPMENT UNITED STATES.

VOLUME II.

BALTIMORE:
J. H. MEDAIRD & CO.

1885.

GOVERNOR LEVIN WINDER,

Eleventh Grand Master, 1814-15,

Was born September 4th, 1757, in Somerset County. His ancestors being among the earliest settlers in Maryland.

He had just commenced the study of the law with talents that gave the finest promise of distinction when the war of the Revolution broke out, when he, at the age of eighteen, left the library for the camp, and remained in active service, heedless of his personal interests, and giving his best exertions in the field without intermission, until a glorious peace terminated the conflict for liberty.

In 1777, at the age of twenty, he was appointed captain in the first battalion commanded by General William Smallwood, and speedily rose to the rank of major, and at the close of the war was Lieutenant-Colonel of the 4th Regiment.

Having witnessed his country enjoying that repose which so much blood was shed to obtain, he retired to the calm retreats of his estate near Princess Anne, Somerset County, and here, he, who had commanded the respect and confidence of his brother soldiers, secured by a virtuous and useful life, the love and friendship of all who knew him. At different times he served with distinction in the Legislative Councils of the State. In 1812, he was elected Speaker of the House of Delegates, and the same year was elected Governor, occupying the position until 1815, during the trying period of the second war with Great Britain.

The first mention of the name of Bro. Winder on the Masonic records of this State, is, as the first Worshipful Master of Lodge No. 37, Princess Anne, chartered by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in 1782, and which he represented in the first Convention held at Talbot County, June 17th, 1783. He also represented his Lodge in the Convention of 1787, when the complete organization of the Grand Lodge of Maryland was consummated.

This Lodge, which was No. 7 under Maryland, became dormant about 1793, we have no further Masonic record of



GOVERNOR LEVIN WINDER.

Bro. Winder until October 8th, 1811, when the Lodge was revived as Somerset No. 49, his name appearing as one of the charter members.

At the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, May, 1814, he was elected Grand Master, and was re-elected to the same position in 1815, occupying at the same time the honorable position of Governor of his native State.

During his terms as Grand Master, he performed two important Masonic ceremonies; the laying of the corner-stone of the Masonic Hall, St. Paul street, 1814, and the first or corner-stone of the Washington Monument in this city, July 4th, 1815. On the occasion first mentioned, he was presented with the golden trowel by his Masonic Brethren, of which mention has been made.

Bro. Winder died in the City of Baltimore, after a painful and protracted illness, July 1st, 1819, in the 63rd year of his age, and was buried on the following day. Among the many who paid the last sad tribute of respect to his memory, were all his brethren of the army of the Revolution in the city, except one, who was detained by domestic affliction, and by the members of the Grand Lodge and its Subordinates of the city, who after the church services by the Rev. Bro. Jas. Inglis of the Presbyterian Church, committed his mortal remains to the grave with the solemn and affecting rites of Freemasonry.

Upon the return of the Grand Lodge to its place of meeting, the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That the Grand Lodge of Maryland lament the death of their late M. W. Grand Master, Levin Winder, whose usefulness in the service of his country and whose public virtues always reflected honor on this fraternity.

Resolved, That the members of the Grand Lodge wear crape on the left arm for thirty days as a tribute of respect to his memory.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Grand Lodge be presented to the R. W. Grand Chaplain, (Rev. Bro. John Hargrove,) and the Rev. Bro. James Inglis for their eloquent and appropriate services at the tomb of the deceased.

Resolved, That these resolutions be incorporated in the late semi-annual proceedings of the Grand Lodge, and that Bro. Edes have permission to give publicity to the same.*

It is thought the remains of Bro. Winder were deposited in a vault in the First Presbyterian grave-yard, corner of Greene and Fayette streets, and that they were afterwards removed to the family burying-ground, on the family estate "Monie Creek," two miles from Princess Anne, where the grave is pointed out to visitors.

Brother Winder married May 13th, 1790, Mary Stoughton Sloss, who died in 1822. Three children survived this union, Edward, Wm. Sidney and Annie, (the latter married Thos. Emory, son of General Emory,) numerous descendants of whom are living in this State, among them Mrs. Wm. Waterman of Baltimore and Mrs. Robert Goldsborough of Centreville, daughters of Wm. S. Winder.

At the time of his death he was senior Major General of the militia of the State of Maryland.

Among the obituary notices of Bro. Winder that appeared in the newspapers of the day, is the following: "The person and presence of the deceased were, in an eminent degree, firm. Of his mind, all the faculties were vigorous and excellent, an uncommonly clear perception and sound and accurate judgment were those that characterized it. He was eloquent, his moral character was of the highest order, his feelings were deep, his sentiments elevated and gentlemanly, his deportment dignified, and uniformly so. What it has been so often affirmed could be said of no man, may, in truth, be said of him, he was great to his *valet de chambre*."

"I have heard his ancient and zealous political adversary, at the time when party spirit was bitterest and basest, and on an occasion of politics and the conduct of men in relation thereto, being the subject of remark, declare, that General Winder was incapable of misstatement, that he believed his spirit could not possibly bear its own reproach of anything that was disingenuous."

*There is no account of this special meeting on the records of the Grand Lodge, nor are there, strange to say, any allusion whatever in the written proceedings of the November Communication, following, to the death of Past Grand Master Winder.

"Throughout the society of Maryland, the deceased was held in great respect. His individual family were ardently devoted to him. Amongst his numerous relatives he was venerated as a patriarch. His death was worthy of his life, during the whole of the trying scene, which was protracted, while his affectionate concern for his family seemed to increase, he preserved the same collectedness and propriety of thought, speech and advice, which had distinguished him in life, and he left the world so tranquilly, that it could hardly be discerned at what moment he breathed his last."

The camp chest of his friend and Masonic brother, Gen. Washington, which he used during the Revolutionary War, came into the possession of Bro. Winder, and was most highly prized by him. At his death it became the property of his son, Wm. Sidney, who, by his will, directed that it should be presented to Congress, which was subsequently done through the Hon. John Quincy Adams of Massachusetts, with the necessary documents to substantiate its identity.

CAPTAIN THOMAS BOYLE,

Was a distinguished privateersman in the war of 1812, sailing from the port of Baltimore. In command at different times of the "Chasseur" and "Comet," he captured many English vessels, making many hairbreadth escapes. He gained much notoriety: that while off the coast of England he issued a proclamation, declaring "all the ports, harbors, bays, creeks, inlets, outlets, islands, and sea coast of the United Kingdom of England and Ireland, in a state of strict and vigorous blockage," and had the same stuck up at Lloyd's Coffee House in London. This was in derision of the practice of the British Admirals, commanding small forces on the coasts of the United States, declaring them in a state of blockade, without having an adequate force at their command to enforce the same.

Bro. Boyle was initiated in Washington Lodge No. 3, about 1796; and was, in 1814, a member of Encampment No. 1. He died in Baltimore, the date not known.